

August Newsletter 2011

The last few months my wife and I have taken the time to speak to a significant number of BC Liberal MLAs, the Premier, Ministers and backbenchers. There is certainly a new attitude and leadership style which is long overdue. The Premier as I expected does not have her ministers on a short leash as was the case with the last two premiers.

Will the BC Liberal Government listen and support change in governance where the facts are compelling and implement immediate change to demonstrate a new leadership style of bringing people together to help create better communities? I believe the government is ready to listen and as a consequence of my conversations with the Premier's Chief of Staff, regional director and Rural Caucus members the BC Liberal Government Rural Caucus will be in Grand Forks August 29th.

My wife has been working with MLA, John Slater, his assistant, Diana Thomas and Grand Forks City Council in putting together an agenda. Both Regional District Representatives have also been contacted.

My wife and I have been with the BC Liberals since the demise of the Social Credit Party and it has been a bitter disappointment. Quite frankly this is our 11th hour and consequently I have been blunt with my assessment that the only way to put a crack in the cynicism and make the point that the BC Liberal Government has changed is for Liberal MLAs to come to Grand Forks listen and deliver better governance immediately where the facts are compelling.

I will be making a power point presentation on why the Wildlife Management Proposal should be implemented. The presentation is going to cover five major topics: Gilpin a special ecosystem;

Science tells the story; The problem- rancher and range staff refuse to acknowledge and implement agreements; Opposition-- grey haired greed and quad bike petition; Significance of BC Liberal Government implementing Gilpin WMA Proposal.

I am describing the presentation as a small issue that will tell a big story. When former Minister of Forest Range, Coleman hired the Executive Director of the BC Cattlemen's Association to oversee the provincial range bureaucracy in 2005 range management fell off a cliff. I will be presenting plenty of evidence to support the indictment.

Cabinet solidarity under Premier Campbell's watch did not accept that our natural resources were invaluable assets to be managed for the ages. If the WMA Proposal is accepted the government has changed and cronyism is in trouble as it should be!

In response to a letter from Grand Forks City council highly critical of management of the Gilpin Grasslands, Minister of Environment, Terry Lake has committed to a field trip on Gilpin.

In June Rob Thompson of the Forest Practices Board spent an hour at the slide site adjacent to the 3km board on Gilpin logging road. One of the major grievances with range management is that they have not and will not implement recommendations from anyone including Forest Practices Board and Range Specialist. The complaint will strengthen the argument to remove cows from the Grassland Park.

Jeremy McCall of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC spent a few hours with me at the slide site. I reminded Jeremy that our wildlife resource is in crisis. It cannot compete with endless road access, long seasons and 4X4s and quad bikes. As it is, an alarming percent of what is left falls victim to hard winters, predators and road kill.

The Gilpin file remains active and I have started to connect with prominent voices that our courts would accept as expert witnesses on the subject of public health, water and pathogens: Bruce Davidson an activist from Walkerton, Ontario who participated in the Walkerton Enquiry; Brian Ridd who works for the Walkerton Water Management Training Center and Chuck Benbrook from Troy Oregon who is well versed with the ongoing problem of pathogens, the cow and leafy vegetables in Salinas Valley.

I recently spoke to NDP MLAs, Katrine Conroy and Norm McDonald and if time presents an opportunity I hope to speak to the NDP Rural Caucus once again.

I will send a few pictures in the near future plus the letter from Grand Forks City Council to the Minister of Environment, Terry Lake.

For more information check out www.boundaryalliance.org .

Barry Brandow